

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 12455 160833Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DOEE-00 /026 W
-----104908 160834Z /10/44
O 151437Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3194
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T GENEVA 12455

EXDIS USCTB

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

PASS TO DOE

EO 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: US PROPOSAL FOR THREE-WEEK
RECESS

CTB MESSAGE NO.298

1.SUMMARY: PURSUANT TO WARNKE-NEIDLE TELECON, A
THREE-WEEK WORKING RECESS BEGINNING AFTER PLENARY
AUGUST 18 WAS PROPOSED TO EDMONDS (UK) AND PETROSYANTS
(USSR). BOTH EXPRESSED PERSONAL AGREEMENT AND PROMISED
TO SEEK REPLIES FROM CAPITALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THEY ALSO AGREED TO PLAN SCHEDULE THIS WEEK ON THE BASIS
OF THE US PROPOSAL. PETROSYANTS COMMENTED ON VERY
CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS TO DATE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESS-
ED STRONG HOPE MOMENTUM WOULD BE MAINTAINED AFTER BREAK.
END SUMMARY.

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2. PURSUANT TO TELEPHONE INSTRUCTIONS FROM WARNKE,
NEIDLE AND GIVAN (US) SAW PETROSYANTS AND TIMERBAEV (USSR)
TO PROPOSE A BRIEF WORKING RECESS OF THREE WEEKS.
SPECIFICALLY, NEIDLE PROPOSED A PLENARY MEETING AUGUST 18,
FOLLOWED BY THE BREAK, WITH NEXT PLENARY SEPTEMBER 11.
HE EMPHASIZED THE US SIDE WANTED TO HANDLE THE BREAK AS
AN INFORMAL MATTER WITHOUT PUBLICITY. HE SAID THE US

HAD A STRONG DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK BEING DONE AT GENEVA AND TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT MOMENTUM; HOWEVER, A BRIEF WORKING BREAK WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES STILL TO BE RESOLVED. SOME MEMBERS OF US DEL WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THAT PROCESS. A BREAK WOULD INCIDENTALLY ALLOW A BRIEF PERIOD OF RELAXATION FOR SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

3. PETROSYANTS SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED FULLY. THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION WAS "EXCEPTIONALLY FAVORABLE". NEVERTHELESS SOME MAJOR ISSUES REMAINED UNRESOLVED. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET DEL HAS ALL THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS, HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE US DEL WAS IN A MORE COMPLEX SITUATION. BOTH SIDES HAVE "MADE GOOD HEADWAY AND HAVE PRODUCED RESULTS THEY CAN BE PROUD OF." BUT A BRIEF WORKING BREAK TO FURTHER CONSIDER KEY ISSUES IN CAPITALS WOULD SEEM A GOOD IDEA. THE SOVIET DEL WOULD REPORT THE US PROPOSAL TO MOSCOW AND HOPED FOR A REPLY BY THURSDAY. THE SOVIET DEL WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANY ALTERNATIVE IDEAS. MOSCOW'S REACTION WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON HOW THE SOVIET CABLE WAS WORDED AND THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST. MEANWHILE THE SOVIET DEL WAS WILLING TO MAKE PLANS ON THE BASIS OF THE US PROPOSAL. PETROSYANTS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN NEGOTIATING MOMENTUM AFTER THE BREAK AND HE HOPED THE US WOULD RESOLVE REMAINING ISSUES BY THAT TIME.

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4. TIMERBAEV RAISED THE QUESTION OF A BRIEF PRESS NOTICE. HE THOUGHT SOMETHING SHOULD BE RELAYED TO THE PRESS, MERELY NOTING THAT A PLENARY WAS HELD AUGUST 18 AND THE NEXT ONE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11. OTHERWISE THE DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATIONS FROM GENEVA COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD. PETROSYANTS REINFORCED THESE IDEAS SAYING THAT IT WAS "ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL" TO GIVE SOME NOTICE, HOWEVER BRIEF, TO THE SOVIET PRESS. HE THEREFORE HOPED THE DELEGATIONS COULD AGREE ON A BRIEF STATEMENT INCLUDING THE DATE OF THE NEXT PLENARY, AS HAD BEEN DONE WITH THE SALT RECESS. NEIDLE SAID HIS GUIDANCE WAS NOT TO FOLLOW THE SALT EXAMPLE BUT TO TREAT THE RECESS INFORMALLY, AND SPECIFICALLY TO TAKE NO INITIATIVE WITH THE PRESS. IF THE SOVIETS FELT IT ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE THE SOVIET PRESS WITH SOME BRIEF INFORMATION, HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE DONE IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT ATTRACT GENERAL PRESS INTEREST. FOR ITS PART THE US WOULD NOT ISSUE ANY PRESS RELEASE. PETROSYANTS UNDERSTOOD AND SAID THE SOVIETS WOULD PROCEED ACCORDINGLY. NEIDLE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SOVIET REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A WORKING BREAK AND SAID IT WOULD BE CLEAR IN THE REPORT BY THE US DEL THAT THE MATTER

WAS BEING HANDLED IN A COOPERATIVE FASHION.

5. IN A SEPARATE EARLIER CONVERSATION, EDMONDS (UK) TOLD NEIDLE THAT HE PERSONALLY AGREED THAT THE BRIEF WORKING BREAK PROPOSED BY THE US WOULD BE USEFUL, AND HE WOULD RECOMMEND AGREEMENT TO LONDON. HE THOUGHT LONDON MIGHT INSTRUCT HIM TO POINT OUT THAT THE UK DEL WAS PREPARED TO WORK WITHOUT A BREAK, BUT WOULD STILL AGREE TO THE US PROPOSAL. NEIDLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY, DISARMAMENT, MEETING AGENDA, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA12455
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780333-0883, D780361-0508
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USCTB
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780864/aaaacbim.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd0c8663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1740111
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: US PROPOSAL FOR THREE-WEEK RECESS CTB MESSAGE NO.298
TAGS: PARM, US, UK, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd0c8663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014